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Southern Kansas Railway Company

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SOUTHERN KANSAS RAILWAY COMPANY.

MAY 7, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PERKINS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 6110.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the bill H. R. 6110, submit the following report:

This bill grants a right of way through the Indian Territory from the southern boundary of Kansas southeasterly to Fort Smith, Ark. The grantee is an existing corporation, having some 400 miles of road in active operation in the State of Kansas. It is owned and operated by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad Company, one of the strongest railroad corporations of the country.

The necessity and policy of permitting the construction of railroads through the Indian Territory seems to this committee self-evident. In reports heretofore submitted this committee has fully stated the grounds whereon the legal right to thus legislate is found to rest. They need not be repeated here.

The road provided for in this bill will afford the most direct line between the Gulf States and the States of Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado. At Fort Smith the road will connect with the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, which road makes direct connection with lines leading to the Gulf and Atlantic seaboard. The road will afford a direct eastern outlet for the grain crops of Kansas and the West, and reciprocal advantage of direct transportation for the lumber and other products of the Southern States, which are necessary for the people of Kansas and adjoining States. The people of both sections earnestly desire construction of this road. Futile attempts have been heretofore made to secure construction. The corporation now asking the privilege has abundant means for construction and the *bona fide* intention to build.

Under these circumstances the committee report the bill, and recommend its passage.